

# PRESS ADVISORY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Scott Vanhorne, (909) 387-4833

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### Major Mountain Projects Funded in 2012-2013 County Budget

**SAN BERNARDINO—June 19, 2012**—Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford is pleased to announce that the 2012-2013 San Bernardino County budget adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 15 includes nearly \$10 million for critical projects in the Rim of the World Mountain Communities.

The allocations include \$4 million to repair the earthen dam at Lake Gregory Regional Park and another \$5.9 million complete a storm drain project in Rimforest, which has been subjected to severe erosion and landslides because of poor drainage.

“Responsible budgeting requires us to make tough choices and to establish priorities based on the real needs of our communities,” Rutherford said. “These allocations recognize two extremely significant projects in our mountain communities that have been placed on the budget backburner for far too many years.”

The State Department of Safety of Dams (DSOD) first notified the County about potential deficiencies in the dam at Lake Gregory Regional Park in February 1986. After years of back-and-forth communication between the County and the DSOD, the State ordered County Regional Parks to remove metal slats from the lake’s dam in 2010. The slats were used to raise the depth of the lake to accommodate summer activities. The DSOD expressed concern that the dam could be susceptible to seismic activity.

The County commissioned a study that identified problems in the dam and is currently reviewing eleven possible projects to fix the issues. DSOD must approve the selected project before repairs can commence.

In the 1990s, the area along Blackfoot Trail East in Rimforest experienced a deep-seated landslide that destroyed homes and part of the roadway. The erosion problem has persisted ever since. The County commissioned a study that identified a project to reroute excess drainage into Little Bear Creek, which flows through Blue Jay and into Lake Arrowhead. The project will require construction of storm drain systems along Highway 18 and in Rimforest. On June 5, the Board of Supervisors hired a firm to prepare a required environmental impact report for the proposed drainage project.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mark A. Hartwig**  
Fire Chief

**DATE:** June 11, 2012  
**CONTACT:** Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer  
(909) 387-5950, 800-426-8689, pager #3307

### **FIREWORKS ALERT!!**

***Possession of any type of fireworks, including "safe and sane" fireworks, is against the law in any unincorporated area of San Bernardino County. In the event a fire occurs due to the unsafe use of fireworks, the responsible persons are likely to face criminal charges and be held liable for damages.***

"Safe and Sane" fireworks are **only** allowed in the following cities: Adelanto, Chino, Colton, and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace, and San Bernardino. Please call the fire department in these cities for more information. All fireworks are illegal elsewhere in the county. All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are termed dangerous and are illegal anywhere in California.

With San Bernardino County facing a dangerous wildland fire season, the County Fire Department has increased its vigilance in enforcing state and county firework laws to protect public health and safety. Fire officials will be issuing citations for the illegal use of fireworks, with fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on their property.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, on a typical 4th of July, fireworks cause more fires in the U.S. than all other causes combined. While "Safe and Sane" fireworks are allowed in some San Bernardino County communities, the County Board of Supervisors and County Fire encourage residents to watch fireworks at community celebrations rather than use their own.

When using fireworks where allowed, County Fire offers some safety tips:

- ✓ Always use fireworks ("Safe and Sane" *only*) with an adult present. Even a "Safe and Sane" sparkler burns at a temperature that ignites clothing easily
- ✓ Always read and follow label directions
- ✓ Always have water (garden hose/bucket) and a fire extinguisher within reach
- ✓ Always place fireworks on a firm, non-combustible surface, like a sidewalk or pavement
- ✓ Never alter fireworks
- ✓ Never re-light "dud" fireworks
- ✓ Homemade fireworks are often deadly; leave the making of fireworks to the experts
- ✓ Never point, throw or mishandle fireworks

In addition to fires, fireworks cause deaths, blindness, and maiming injuries to children and adults every year. For more information on fireworks safety, contact your local fire station.

**Have a SAFE celebration!**



## ***INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS ALERT!!***



**I**ndependence Day celebrates the birth of our nation and gives us much to celebrate, but fireworks can be dangerous and should not be treated as toys. They cause blindness, maiming and even death when misused. Fireworks cause more fires on the Fourth of July than all other causes combined.

### **In California**

All fireworks that explode, shoot into the air or move along the ground are officially called "dangerous" and are illegal to possess anywhere in the state.

### **In Unincorporated San Bernardino County**

Possession of any fireworks is illegal. Fire and law enforcement officials will confiscate any fireworks and issue citations to the offender. If misused fireworks cause a fire, the responsible persons are likely to face criminal charges and liability for damages.

### **San Bernardino County Cities That Allow "Safe and Sane" Fireworks**

Safe and Sane fireworks are **only** allowed in the following cities: Adelanto, Chino, Colton and Rialto, as well as specific locations in Fontana, Grand Terrace, and San Bernardino. Please call the fire departments in these cities for more information.

### **Safety Advice**

If you're thinking about using fireworks this July 4<sup>th</sup>, please keep these safety tips in mind:

- ✓ Consider alternatives. For example, you can watch spectacular fireworks safely at a community celebration.
- ✓ Don't allow children to use fireworks—even "Safe and Sane" ones—without adult supervision. Even "Safe and Sane" sparklers can ignite clothing easily.
- ✓ Always read and follow label directions.
- ✓ Always have water (garden hose/bucket) and a fire extinguisher within reach.
- ✓ Always place fireworks on a firm, non-combustible surface before lighting.
- ✓ Never alter fireworks.
- ✓ Never re-light "dud" fireworks.
- ✓ Never attempt to make your own. Leave the making of fireworks to the experts.
- ✓ Never point, throw or mishandle fireworks.

Fire officials will be issuing citations for the illegal use of fireworks, with fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored or used on their property.

Due to the severe fire season, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and County Fire encourage residents to partake in a locally sponsored 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and leave the firework displays to the experts.

To report a fire emergency: 9-1-1  
Fire dispatch (non-emergency): (909) 356-3805

**Have a *SAFE* celebration!**



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mark A. Hartwig**  
*Fire Chief*

**DATE:** June 12, 2012  
**CONTACT:** Ryan Beckers, Fire Engineer/PIO  
(909) 337-3002, (800) 426-8689 pager #3307

### **FIRE CREWS TO CONDUCT HOME SURVEYS**

**LAKE ARROWHEAD** - Starting this month, San Bernardino County Fire Department firefighters will be going door-to-door promoting wildfire safety to homeowners and families across the mountaintop. Crews from County fire stations in Lake Arrowhead, Green Valley Lake, Fawnskin, Angelus Oaks and Forest Falls will be walking their neighborhoods, inspecting properties that abut the forest border and would therefore be the first threatened by encroaching fire.

The door-to-door project has been in development for some time, and is an extension of long-term efforts by agencies across the mountaintop to create a safer forest. With the exhaustion of federal grants that have funded hazardous tree and fire safety programs for over a decade, local fire suppression crews will be "boots on the ground" supporting the efforts of county agencies such as code enforcement, hazard trees, and prevention. Firefighters will deliver door-hangers containing publications such as the county's "Ready, Set, Go" preparedness plan, a comprehensive guide for homeowners who want to make their homes defensible and their families mobile if a fire occurs.

"We're looking forward to getting out there to meet our neighbors," said Fire Captain Kyle Hauducoeur, coordinator of the local surveys. "We want to enlist homeowners as partners in keeping the mountain safe and to preplan the neighborhoods so we're better prepared should an emergency occur. When homeowners help to reduce fire hazards, we can do our job to protect homes in a wildfire."

The guidelines in the door-hanger packet are gleaned from multiple resources, including the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce, the U.S. Forest Service and county ordinances. Fire officials stress that the surveys are not punitive in nature, and are merely serving to provide information and techniques for homeowners to be ready this and every fire season.

San Bernardino County Fire Department welcomes members of the media to join firefighters on the streets as they conduct these property inspections. Inquiries should be directed to the contact listed above or call Tracey Martinez at (909) 387-5950.

A photo of the packet can be located at [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org) under latest news.

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# NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino  
**[www.sbcounty.gov](http://www.sbcounty.gov)**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 12, 2012

For more information, contact  
Roni M. Edis, Staff Analyst II/PIO  
(909) 387-7866  
[redis@dpw.sbcounty.gov](mailto:redis@dpw.sbcounty.gov)

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## County Stormwater Program offers car wash discounts

San Bernardino County's stormwater pollution prevention program recently launched a car wash discount campaign to encourage residents to wash their cars at commercial car washes rather than in their driveways.

Commercial car washes send their wastewater into sewer systems, from where it is eventually treated. Washing your car at home sends detergents and other toxins directly to storm drains, which flow directly into streams and rivers.

"Arranging for car wash discounts is a good way to direct dangerous water to treatment facilities and away from our fragile ecosystem," said Pavlova Vitale, the County's Areawide Stormwater Program Manager.

Between now and August 31, any San Bernardino County resident can download a free discount coupon from the program's website ([www.sbcountystormwater.org/carwash](http://www.sbcountystormwater.org/carwash)) and redeem it at any of the participating car washes.

The program has partnered with 11 car wash facilities in Upland, Ontario, Colton, Highland, Redlands and Yucaipa to offer deals and discounts to residents in an effort to reduce water pollution caused by residential car washing. The program is currently enlisting additional car wash partners to participate in this effort. To find a full list of car washes and deals they offer, visit [www.sbcountystormwater.org/carwash](http://www.sbcountystormwater.org/carwash).

Wash water from residential car washing contains toxins like oil, grease and detergents that can be harmful to the environment if they enter the storm drain as the water eventually flows into our streams and rivers. Washing the car in a professional car wash is the best way to prevent water pollution because commercial car wash facilities will send the wash water to a wastewater treatment plant preventing it from entering the storm drain system.

The campaign is part of the San Bernardino County Stormwater Program, a public education program working to educate residents and businesses about stormwater pollution prevention in San Bernardino County. To learn more about the program visit [sbcountystormwater.org](http://sbcountystormwater.org).

# NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino  
**[www.sbcounty.gov](http://www.sbcounty.gov)**



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
**AT YOUR SERVICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2012

For more information, contact  
David Wert, Public Information Officer  
(909) 387-4717  
[dwert@sbcounty.gov](mailto:dwert@sbcounty.gov)



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## Recommended budget now online for public review

The County's 2012-13 Recommended Budget is now online and available for viewing at [www.sbcounty.gov](http://www.sbcounty.gov).

The County of San Bernardino's budgets have been honored for six years in a row as among the best in North America in terms of their clarity and completeness ([http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/CAO/pressreleases/content/budget\\_award\\_PR\\_5-9-12.pdf](http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/CAO/pressreleases/content/budget_award_PR_5-9-12.pdf)).

This year's budget reflects the County's efforts to assist the community in achieving the Countywide Vision, which calls for the creation of a "complete county" that capitalizes on its many assets to collaboratively establish a sustainable system of economic opportunity, education, well-being and amenities. Information on the Countywide Vision can be found at [www.sbcounty.gov/vision](http://www.sbcounty.gov/vision).

The \$4.06 billion recommended budget is balanced and addresses a \$91.5 million cumulative structural deficit through 2015-16, \$33.2 million of which had been projected for the coming fiscal year. The County has true discretion over only \$446.3 million of the \$4.06 billion total. The rest is mandated and controlled by state and federal law.

The Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the 2012-13 Recommended Budget and consider adoption on Friday, June 15, at 1:30 p.m., with subsequent hearings on June 19 and 26 if necessary.

The County of San Bernardino's award-winning budgets can be viewed on the county's website at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/cao/>. The site includes recommended and final budgets dating back to 2002, as well as quarterly reports, archived news releases, goals and objectives established by the Board of Supervisors, and the County Organizational Chart.



# NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino  
[www.sbcounty.gov](http://www.sbcounty.gov)



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
**AT YOUR SERVICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2012

For more information, contact  
David Wert, Public Information Officer  
(909) 387-4717  
[dwert@sbcounty.gov](mailto:dwert@sbcounty.gov)



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## Landmark pact secures access to roads on federal lands

In a groundbreaking legal victory more than five years in the making, the County of San Bernardino this week secured public access on roads in and around the Mojave National Preserve.

The County sued the federal government in October 2006 to establish rights-of-way on 14 roads maintained by the County for decades to ensure they would remain open to public use. The federal government eventually agreed to keep the roads open for vehicular traffic as well as assume maintenance for roads located within the preserve consistent with the preserve's General Management Plan. The County will continue to maintain two roads on the edges of the preserve located on U.S. Bureau of Land Management property – Nipton Road and Goffs Road.

The agreement also met with the approval of three environmental advocacy groups that had joined the suit as interested parties by protecting resources the groups claimed are rare and threatened, including the desert tortoise, the Kelso Dunes, and bighorn sheep.

"This landmark decision ensures public access to our beautiful desert," said Board of Supervisors Chair Josie Gonzales. "We greatly appreciate the federal government and the environmental community for their cooperation in this matter. Together we have created a legacy for the people who live in the County as well as those who come here to enjoy our natural treasures."

The vast Mojave National Preserve takes in 1.6 million acres between Interstates 15 and 40 just east of the Nevada State Line.

**-MORE-**

The basis of the County's lawsuit was an 1866 law known as R.S. 2477, which was intended to ensure public access through federally owned land. The law was repealed in 1976, so the County had to demonstrate that it had held and maintained the roads prior to that date.

The County and federal government negotiated for several years before the federal government agreed to the settlement, which recognizes that the County has established RS2477 rights over nearly all the roads at issue in the lawsuit. The settlement acknowledges the existence of County rights of way as the roads presently exist, not as they did in 1976. The federal government also agreed to enter into talks with the County to discuss safety improvements to the roads, most-significantly the installation of call boxes in areas where wireless telephone reception is poor.

The parties believe that this is the first such negotiated settlement of an RS 2477 lawsuit in the nation.

The County did not seek any monetary damages. However, the County expects to save \$53,000 per year by no longer having to maintain roads within the preserve.



# US Forest Service

## San Bernardino National Forest

602 S. Tippecanoe Ave San Bernardino, CA 92408



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Miller (909) 382-2788

### San Bernardino National Forest to Offer “Fee Free” Days

**San Bernardino, Calif., June 6, 2012** –The San Bernardino National Forest announced that Saturday, June 9, will be a “Fee Free” day for all visitors to the Forest. A National Forest Adventure Pass will not be required for visitors recreating in all areas that require a National Forest Adventure Pass.

“This Saturday marks National Get Outdoors Day, a great way to connect communities with public lands all over the country,” said acting Forest Recreation Officer Al Colby. “This is a great opportunity to get outdoors and appreciate the open spaces and enjoy healthy recreation on the forest.”

“Fee Free” days are observed this year on:

National Get Outdoors Day - June 9

National Public Lands Day - September 29

Veterans’ Day weekend - November 10-12

Visitors who inadvertently commit a Daily Adventure Pass on “fee free” days can have it replaced free-of-charge. Forest visitors are reminded that even though the Adventure Pass fee will be waived, other fees such as campground, reservation and group site fees may still be applicable. For more information on the National Forest Adventure Pass, visit our new website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/adventurepass>

Planning to visit the forest? Please “**Know Before You Go,**” and to contact your local Ranger Station for more information on current conditions.

Big Bear Ranger Station & Discovery Center 909-382-2790

Lytle Creek Ranger Station 909-382-2851

Idyllwild Ranger Station 909-382-2922

Mill Creek Visitor Center 909-382-2881

Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument 760-862-9984

*About the U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest*

The San Bernardino National Forest is comprised of three Ranger Districts spanning 676,666 acres in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. From the desert floor to the pristine mountain peaks, the San Bernardino National Forest offers natural environments, spectacular scenery, developed campgrounds and picnic areas, numerous recreational opportunities, and the solitude of quiet wilderness and open space for the over 24 million residents of Southern California and those visiting the area. The forest environment also provides habitat for numerous plants and animals and is crucial in sustaining drinking water, air, and soil quality. Learn more at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf>

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